REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-17 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15 have been amended. Claims 16 and 17 have been added.

Objections to the Specification

In Section 3 of the Office Action, the Specification has been objected to.

The Specification has been corrected as follows: (1) On page 39 line 6, the embedded hyperlink has been removed; (2) page 40 line 15, the embedded hyperlink has been removed; (3) on page 41 line 15 the embedded hyperlink has been removed.

§ 102 Rejection of Claims 1-15

In Section 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,795,097; hereinafter referred to as "Yamaguchi"). Claims 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15 have been amended to address the rejection.

The present invention is aimed at heightening the user- efficiency and friendliness over the prior art. As discussed in the Background of the Invention section of the present application, the prior art includes other information processing devices, including a notebook personal computer or the like, that exhibit many user-related problems. These problems stem from the use of a touch pad and right and left click buttons, to operate the various functionalities of the computer. For instance, in the prior art, a user "operates a start menu button on the portable information processing device by using the touch pad and the left and right click buttons . . . ."

Background of the Invention, page 2, lines 17-18. "The start menu button is provided on a task bar and functions as means for opening a start menu . . . . As the start menu button is pointed to by the pointer and the left click button is clicked, the start menu is displayed." *Background of the Invention, page 2, line 21 to page 3, lines 1-2.* The user must then move the cursor via the touchpad to one of the displayed sub-menu items on the start menu, such as the "program" menu bottom. When the user left clicks on "program" another hierarchical menu appears, displaying a plurality of application programs and program groups from which the user can select one. *Background of the Invention, page 2, line 21 to page 3, lines 4-7.* The user must continually repeat this series of operations by pointing and clicking to start the desired application program from the task bar, which is a difficult user interface to manipulate. *See Background of the Invention, page 3, lines 8-18.*

The present invention is aimed at overcoming these user-friendliness issues in the prior art, both by providing an input device for selecting and activating menu operations on the computer, and by strategically locating the input device so that it is convenient for the user to operate while he/she operates the information processing device (e.g. portable computer) in the normal manner (e.g., by using a keyboard containing a touch pad and click buttons).

To address the above-described problems of the prior art, device, methods and recording medium of the present invention include an input device (e.g., jog-dial) that is located near a plurality of click buttons such that it can be operated in conjunction with the click buttons and keyboard without forcing the user having to largely move his hand. *Summary of the Invention, page 13, lines 5-10.* Likewise, the input device (jog-dial) contains a rotating member that rotates in a direction corresponding to the apparent movement of the display status, e.g., the displayed information on the screen that expands and contracts with the movement of the input device.

In particular, the information input device of claim 1 is situated near a plurality of click buttons, such that the input device and the plurality of click buttons can be operated with one hand, and such that the input device can be rotated in a direction corresponding to apparent movement of a first and second display status.

For example, the configuration of the information input device claim 1, as presented herein, includes:

> An information input device for, while displaying an image, carrying out an input operation by a user using an input device for carrying out rotation and press operations near a plurality of click buttons, the information input device comprising:
>
> a first display status for displaying what processing an information processing device can currently carry out in accordance with the operation using the input device; and
>
> a second display status for displaying a list of items for execution on the information processing device in accordance with the operation using the input device;
>
> wherein the input device is situated near the plurality of click buttons such that the plurality of click buttons and the input device are manipulated with one hand; and
>
> wherein rotation of the input device in a direction causes apparent movement in substantially the same direction of the first and/or second display status.

Therefore, the information input device of claim 1 (e.g., jog-dial) can be manipulated with the same hand that manipulates the plurality of click buttons, thereby obviating the need of the user to substantially pick up his hand after using the click keys in order to use a jog-dial located, for example, on the side of the information processing device (e.g., a portable computer). The placement of the input device in close proximity to the plurality of click buttons achieves the goal of promoting user-friendliness of the input device, not only over prior methods

of operating display menus (e.g., via track ball, touch pad, right and left click buttons), and also allows for its rotation in the same direction as the image appearing in the display status. The correlation of the jog-dial rotation and the apparent rotation of the display status allows for quicker user operation. The user not only can operate the input device with ease based on its location and easy manipulation, but also because as the user rotates the input device the image in the display status moves in a similar direction, along a parallel axis.

With his rejection, the Office Action indicates that Yamaguchi discloses "an information input device as the technique of a notebook type personal computer with a jog-dial (see col. 4, lines 62-64) . . . ." *January 27, 2005 Office Action, page 3.* Though the cited section of Yamaguchi does disclose a jog-dial, Figures 1 and 4 demonstrate its location on the right side of the body of the personal computer, which teaches against the intended user-friendliness of the present invention. The input device is not situated in close proximity to the click buttons or touch pad or other keys used to activate the various information processing (e.g., computer) functions. In addition, in Yamaguchi the location of the input device prevents the user from manipulating the input device (e.g., jog-dial) and the plurality of click buttons with one hand. Having to substantially move one's hand requires one to look down and interrupt work, which adds to complexity in operation and teaches away from user-friendliness. Further, the input device (e.g., jog-dial) in Yamaguchi appears to rotate in a direction contrary to the first and second display status, as cited by the Examiner (SP 21 in Figure 25 and Figure 21, respectively). In Yamaguchi, one must move the jog-dial in a right to left, or horizontal direction, while the display statuses (see Figures 25 and 21) are displayed in a vertical list, extending along the vertical plane of the display unit. This horizontal rotation direction of the Yamaguchi jog-dial is therefore contrary to the vertical plane on which each first and second display status in

Yamaguchi appear (see Figures 25 and 21), as cited by the Office Action. As such, the user does not move the jog-dial in substantially the same direction as the display status as claimed. Therefore, Yamaguchi teaches away from the rotational and display status elements of the input device in claim1.

Based on the foregoing discussion, it is submitted that Yamaguchi fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 should be allowable over Yamaguchi. Since independent claims 7, 8, 14 and 15 closely parallel, and include substantially similar limitations as, independent claim 1, claims 7, 8, 14 and 15 should also be allowable over Yamaguchi. Further, since claims 2-6 depend from claim 1, claims 9-13 depend from claim 8, and new claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 7, they should be allowable over Yamaguchi.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1-15 based upon 35 U.S.C. §102(e) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Newly-added Claims 16 and 17

Based on the foregoing discussion regarding claim 7, and since newly-added claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 7, claims 16 and 17 should be allowable over the cited prior art references, including Yamaguchi.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 1-17 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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